(c) the follow up action taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai which was assigned the study to suggest measures to mitigate agrarian distress in Idukki district of Kerala has submitted its report to the Government on 8th May, 2008.

(b) Details are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) The Government has granted 'in-principle' approval for providing financial support of Rs. 764.45 crore for mitigating the agrarian distress in Idukki District of Kerala.

Statement

Recommendation suggested by commission

The main recommendations made by the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai in their study report on measures to mitigate agrarian distress in Idukki district of Kerala covers action for reviving ecological security and strengthening common facilities, strengthening of livelihood security of the farmers with crop specific programmes and integrating animal husbandry components for income enhancement, creating rural road connectivity with remote villages to promote agricultural marketing and improve technology and input servicing, loan waiver and distress relief measures and collateral income generating activities. Research and development component has also been recommended for development, refinement and transfer of technology in the major plantation and food crops of the district. Considering the importance of vegetable production in the district, a separate research centre with all infrastructural facilities has also been recommended. For rejuvenation of Cardamom crop, the recommended programme interventions include replantation of low yielding gardens. Cardamom Price Stabilization Fund has been recommended for price compensation.

Establishment of a statutory multi-stakeholder Idukki Aiswarya Samithi under the chairmanship of Chief Minister consisting of representatives of farming and tribal families, technical experts, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, and representatives of women's organizations and mass media and an high powered Idukki Karma Samithi headed by the State Chief Secretary for implementation of programmes has also been recommended.

Research and development in agriculture sector

2288. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government envisage 4 per cent growth in agriculture sector in Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, what amount has been invested in research and development in this field;

(c) what schemes have been launched for the benefit of farmers and what is the status of implementation of those schemes in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Bundelkhand region; and

(d) the status of private investment in this sector and what facilities of direct marketing have been launched for the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 12,023 crore has been allocated to DARE/ICAR for Research and Development in Agriculture during the Eleventh Plan.

(c) In order to ensure that 4 per cent growth in the agriculture sector is achieved during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, in addition to ongoing schemes, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched two schemes (i) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) for Rs. 25000 crore and (ii) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) for Rs. 4883 crore during the Eleventh Five Year Plan to increase production and productivity in the agriculture sector. An amount of Rs. 315.33 crore under RKVY and Rs. 253.03 crore under NFSM has been allocated to Uttar Pradesh during 2009-10. The Districts of (Jalaun, (ii) Chitrakoot, (iii) Lalitpur, (iv) Hamirpur, (v) Mahoba and (vi) Jhansi of the Bundelkhand Region have been covered under NFSM.

(d) The Government has proposed to enter into partnership with the private sector to strengthen agricultural infrastructure. The areas identified for private investment are Agriculture Marketing and Horticulture. In addition, under the Scheme of Development and Strengthening of Infrastructure Facilities for Promotion and Distribution of Quality Seed, private companies, individual entrepreneurs, self help groups, etc. are given credit linked back ended capital subsidy. Since 2005-06 an amount of Rs. 12 crore has been released to the National Seeds Corporation and they have sanctioned 205 projects.

For direct marketing States have to amend their Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts. The State of Uttar Pradesh has not been notified for implementation of the scheme of "Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardization" since the requisite reforms have not been introduced in the State.

Direct benefits of subsidy to farmers

†2289. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fertilizer companies are taking the advantages of fertilizer subsidy meant for the farmers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is formulating any policy which provides for extending the benefits of subsidy directly to the farmers; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.